Labour is implementing a scheme for providing employment-oriented technical education to minorities.

(vii) States/UITs have been asked to issue orders to enable District Collectors to disburse ex-gratia relief to the victims of the communal violence expeditiously.

(viii) Powers have been given to Chief Executive Officers of State Wakf Boards under Sections 54 and 55 of the Wakf Act 1995 to remove encroachments from Wakf properties (including graveyards) and seek assistance of Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the area, if necessary.

Theft of Cast Iron Pipes

*370. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cast iron pipes have been mischievously stolen from the DDA's Central Store at Azadpur;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any connivance with the DDA staff in the theft of the pipes is suspected;

(d) if so, whether the racket involved in the theft of the pipes has been identified; and

(e) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 8th May, 1998, a theft of 49 numbers of 150 mm dia. of Pipes each 5.5 mtr. long, was detected. FIR was lodged with the Jahangirpuri Police Station on the same day.

(c) to (e) The Police is investigating the matter. Departmental enquiry has also been ordered by Vice Chairman, DDA. Action against the DDA staff, if found involved, will be taken after the investigation/enquiry is completed.

Modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants

*371. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports of irregularities in the modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants;

(b) if so, whether Government have made enquiries in the matter; and

(c) the findings of the enquiry and the steps taken by Government on these findings?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Complaints/references received in the Ministry alleging irregularities in respect of modernisation projects at Durgapur Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant of SAIL are duly examined in consultation with concerned authorities. As on date, no formal enquiry has been ordered by Ministry of Steel in this regard.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Setting up of NIOH in state capitals

*372. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to increase the number of National Institutes for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH) all over the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no State capitals have any such institutes on the